Arts, Briefly

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Oprah and Tom, at Peace



Oprah Winfrey, right, and **Tom Cruise** will serve as hosts of the Nobel Peace Prize Concert in Oslo on Dec. 11, when the 2004 laureate, the Kenyan environmentalist **Wangari Maathai**, will be honored, The Associated Press reported. The entertainers on the program will include the teenage British soul singer **Joss Stone**, the opera luminary **Andrea Bocelli**, the jazz singer **Diana Krall**, the pop singer **Cyndi Lauper** and the rhythm and blues and disco singer **Patti Labelle**. The concert will be seen live in more than 100 countries. Last year the hosts were the husband-and-wife team **Michael Douglas** and **Catherine Zeta-Jones**.

Lincoln Center: Economic Creativity

What does Lincoln Center mean to the economies of New York City, the metropolitan area and the state? According to the findings of a new study released today, the center, home to a dozen of the world's foremost arts organizations, generated $1.52 billion in economic activity in 2003, which included supporting 15,200 workers with benefits and wages. The center attracts some 4.7 million visitors annually, including 3 million ticket buyers and hundreds of thousands of individuals and families who attend free performances, special events and civic celebrations. The study, prepared by two economic development consulting firms, Economic Development Research Group in association with Mount Auburn Associates, said direct spending on local restaurants and lodgings, along with retail and other activities by out-of-towners, pumped roughly $258 million into the New York City economy. The study also estimated that from 1998 to 2008, construction associated with Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall at the Time Warner Center would generate $1.1 billion in economic activity, including 8,500 construction-related jobs. The report added that since the early 1960's, when Lincoln Center opened, taxable property values for the area had increased by 2,608 percent, compared with 447 percent for the rest of Manhattan. The area was defined as ranging from 58th Street to 72nd Street and from Central Park to the Hudson River.